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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6088

BILL NUMBER: SB 267

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 31, 2012

BILL AMENDED: Jan 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Education Concerning Child Abuse.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Rogers

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Behning

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE), in collaboration with the Department of Child Services and organizations that have expertise in child abuse, including child sexual abuse, to identify or develop model education materials, response policies, and reporting procedures on child abuse, including child sexual abuse, for use by schools for grade 2 through grade 5.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The education materials and procedures referred to above have to be made available to schools no later than July 1, 2013. The education materials may include topics such as warning signs of child abuse (including sexual abuse), basic principles of child abuse (including sexual abuse), prevention, and methods of student, teacher, and parental education and outreach.

The model child abuse and child sexual abuse response and reporting policies may include defining how a victim of abuse may seek assistance, how staff personnel may intervene when they suspect or recognize that a student is a victim of abuse, identifying the counseling options and the educational support available to assist a victim of abuse, and outlining how to report such incidents.

Education materials would probably be obtained from local and national organizations. However, the Department would have to organize and distribute the materials to schools. The DOE would have to carry out these provisions within its existing level of resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) Under the guidance of DOE, schools would have to implement child abuse and child sexual abuse education programs, response and reporting procedures in Grade 2 through Grade 5. School health education curriculums may have to be modified to include instruction on child abuse, but this can be carried out within the existing level of school resources.

The immediate impact would be the cost of training materials for students and staff. Training for staff could be accomplished during teacher in-service days.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources: American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry website: <http://www.aacap.org/>

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